

Dear Arizona Legislator,

Arizona schools need your help to fix a severe oversight that could dramatically impact their day-to-day operations. I am writing you today in regards to the initial state budget recommendation released in January that reflects the Governor's endorsement of how taxpayer dollars should be spent. I am appreciative of the additional areas of K-12 education funding that his recommendation bolstered. But, I am disappointed and outright shocked at some of staggering budget cuts that will hold a negative impact and immensely harm our education system.

The initial budget completely eliminated the Arizona Department of Education's (ADE) Information Technology (IT) budget; meaning that as of July 1 2017, there will be absolutely no funds allocated to the important system dedicated to counting students and paying schools. Without adequate maintenance money to continue day-to-day operations, the system will collapse. Schools will be subjected to returning to the 1990s era of calculating payments. Student data will be inaccessible and programs will lose the ability to apply for federal funding.

Schools will not be able to use the myriad of savvy applications that provide a collection of cost benefits to schools. It is important to me that Arizona continues to progress in the ever-advancing field of technology, instead of digress as this unacceptable oversight will do. It is unsettling to imagine a future where our student's most basic needs will not be met.

For these reasons, I ask you support Arizona's schools by ensuring the ADE receives the proper IT funding for the system responsible for counting students and calculating payment to every public and charter school in Arizona. If you support education, you should support this important system that helps schools focus their time on the most important thing of all: educating our students.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital and time-sensitive request. Your vote to support ADE IT funding affirms your advocacy for improving education in Arizona.

Sincerely,

Arizona Education Supporter